



Inside Ag

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Colorado Department of Agriculture Works to Prevent Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)



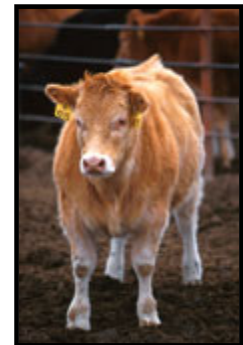
Under a contract with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Feed Program has completed 75 on-farm Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) prevention inspections. Under this contract, CDA inspectors visited Colorado beef feedlots and dairies to ensure compliance with 21 CFR 589.2000 – *Animal Proteins Prohibited in Ruminant Feed*, also known as the "BSE Rule."

The BSE Rule, published by the FDA in 1997, prohibits feeding cattle and other ruminants (sheep, elk, deer, etc.) commonly used protein feed ingredients made from certain mammalian body parts; such as muscle, organs, and bones. These proteins, commonly referred to as "prohibited

materials," are believed to be the agents that cause the disease. Cattle with BSE commonly referred to as "Mad Cow Disease," display behavioral, gait, and postural abnormalities. There is no cure or treatment for this disease and it kills 100% of its victims. For more information on BSE, go to the [FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine BSE homepage](#).

During the on-farm inspections, inspectors requested information on each firm's operations, including feeding practices. CDA inspectors also reviewed records pertaining to the receipt of feeds and feed ingredients and physically inspected the feeding and feed manufacturing areas. No violations were encountered at any of the 75 farms that were inspected.

Under the Colorado Feed Law, CDA also has authority to perform BSE prevention inspections. Each year, CDA staff performs inspections at approximately 100 feed manufacturers and 130 livestock feed retailers in Colorado. Stores that sell livestock feed are visited by CDA inspectors who perform label reviews to ensure that prohibited materials are not being fed to ruminants. If a livestock feed or supplement contains a prohibited material, a caution statement must appear on the label. This caution statement will state "**Do not feed to cattle or other ruminants.**" CDA inspectors also sample ruminant feeds for testing to determine the presence of prohibited materials. CDA's Biochemistry Laboratory conducts this testing. Since 2004, 460 feed samples were tested for prohibited materials. No violations have been found.



In April 2009, additional BSE Rule requirements will become law. These requirements will further strengthen the safeguards that are already in place. Included in the new requirements is a ban of prohibited materials in all animal feed, including pet food. This additional requirement will help prevent the accidental feeding of cattle with ingredients that may be contaminated with the BSE agents. To learn more, click on [FDA Strengthens Safeguards for Consumers of Beef](#).

CDA has a FDA contract in place to perform additional BSE prevention inspections next year.

As of January, 2008, FDA has received over 59,000 BSE reports for inspections conducted in the United States. Nearly 70% of these inspections were conducted by state feed safety officials.

For more information on CDA's BSE prevention efforts, please visit the [CDA BSE Prevention Homepage](#) or contact Laurel Hamling at (303) 867-9221 or laurel.hamling@ag.state.co.us.